

## U.S. EMBASSY ABU DHABI

### Emergency Numbers

POLICE/AMBULANCE/FIRE  
999

POISON CONTROL ( Sh.  
Khalifa Medical Center)

**02-610-3500**

US EMBASSY ABU DHABI  
EMERGENCY NUMBER  
**02 414 2200**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Overseas Citizen Services  
From within the U.S.

**1-888-407-4747**

From outside the U.S.

**1-202-501-4444**

# American Citizen Services

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## Are you prepared for a crisis?

### WHY PREPARE?

A crisis can come in many forms. From the death of the primary wage earner to the melt down of a nuclear reactor close by. As US citizens overseas, we need to be prepared for the unexpected. Preparing yourself and your family for crisis is essential.

We have all participated in fire drills. The idea behind the drills is that in the event of a real fire, your body will not become paralyzed by fear. Instead, your body will automatically take over and react correctly as it had previously practiced, no thinking and trying to figure your routes involved.

Fires are not the only crisis that

you may face, however. We recommend that you think of possible crisis scenarios and how you would react in such crisis. With this issue of the newsletter we hope to give you the tools and resources to prepare yourself and your family for a crisis.

### WHAT MAY HAPPEN?

We recommend that you think about the following scenarios and what you would do in each case:

- ⇒ Natural disasters (floods, cyclones, extreme cold or extreme heat, earthquakes, prolonged sand storms, fires)
- ⇒ Pandemics (flu and other contagious diseases)

⇒ Technological & accidental hazards (blackouts, hazardous materials incidents and nuclear power plant accidents)

⇒ Terrorist/War Hazards (explosions, biological threats, chemical threats, nuclear blasts, radiological dispersion devices)

⇒ Travel and cargo restrictions (inability of passengers and cargo to travel by air or sea).

It is impossible to plan for all situations, however, we recommend that you come up with two separate plans: shelter in place and evacuation.

## Shelter in Place

Taking appropriate shelter is critical in times of disaster. Sheltering is appropriate when conditions require that you seek protection in your home, place of employment or other location when disaster strikes. Sheltering outside the hazard area could include staying with friends and relatives, seeking commercial lodging or staying in a mass care facility oper-

ated by disaster relief groups.

To effectively shelter, you must first consider the hazard and then choose a place in your home or other building that is safe for that hazard. The safest locations to seek shelter vary by hazard. We recommend that you always have a basic emergency supply kit available at all times.

Please see page 2 for details

## Evacuation

Evacuations are more common than many people realize. In some circumstances the US Embassy, or local authorities may advise American citizens to evacuate or households decide to evacuate to avoid situations they believe are potentially dangerous.

The amount of time you have to leave will depend on the hazard. If the event is a weather condition or worsening political strife, you might have a day or two to get ready. However, many disasters allow no

time for people to gather even the most basic necessities, which is why planning ahead is essential.

Plan how you will assemble your family and supplies and anticipate where you will go for different situations. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency and know the evacuation routes to get to those destinations.

For more information please visit

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

### Federal Benefits Unit Town Hall in Abu Dhabi

The Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) of the American Consulate General in Jerusalem, will be holding a town hall and answering questions at the US Embassy in Abu Dhabi in the Consular waiting room on April 25 at 4:00 pm. For more information regarding FBU Jerusalem please visit their website at: [http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/federal\\_benefits.html](http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/federal_benefits.html). The American Citizen Services unit in the Embassy will also give an overview of services and recent changes.

## Upcoming holiday Schedule

- May 27— Memorial Day (USA)
- June 17 \*\* — Prophet's Ascension Day (UAE)
- July 4—Independence Day (USA)
- August 19-20th \*\*\* — Eid Al Fitr
- September 2—Labor Day

\*\* Denotes UAE religious holidays which are dependent upon the sighting of the moon and are likely to vary from the above estimated dates.

## UPCOMING PRIMARIES

- ⇒ April 24—Alabama (Runoff), Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, & Rhode Island.
- ⇒ May 8— Indiana, North Carolina & West Virginia
- ⇒ May 15—Idaho, Nebraska & Oregon
- ⇒ May 22— Arkansas & Kentucky
- ⇒ May 29— Texas (This is a change; the election was originally scheduled for March 6, then April 3)
- ⇒ June 5—California, Iowa, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico & South Dakota
- ⇒ June 12— Arkansas (Runoff), Maine, Nevada, North Dakota, South Carolina & Virginia
- ⇒ June 26— Colorado, New York (Federal Primary), Oklahoma, South Carolina (Runoff), South Dakota (Runoff) & Utah

\*\*\*\*\* For more information regarding voting please visit [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov)

# Shelter in Place: Basic Emergency Supply Kit

Water, food, and clean air are important things to have if you are sheltering in place. Each family or individual's kit should be customized to meet specific needs, such as medications and infant formula.

- ◇ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for one week, for drinking and sanitation
- ◇ Food, at least a one week supply of non-perishable food
- ◇ Battery-powered radio
- ◇ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ◇ First Aid kit
- ◇ Whistle to signal for help
- ◇ Infant formula and diapers, if you have an infant
- ◇ Personal hygiene items including feminine supplies, Moist towelettes, garbage bags and

plastic ties for personal sanitation

- ◇ Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- ◇ Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ◇ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ◇ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ◇ Food for pets

It is possible that the power will be out and you will not have air-conditioning. Rethink your clothing and bedding supplies to account for growing children and other family changes. Below are some other items for your family to consider adding to its supply kit. Some of these items, especially those marked with a \* can be dangerous, so please have

an adult collect these supplies.

- ◇ Paper towels, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- ◇ Cash, change—ATM machines and banks may not be functional
- ◇ Fire Extinguisher
- ◇ Matches in a waterproof container\*
- ◇ Paper, pencil
- ◇ Disinfectant\*
- ◇ Household chlorine bleach\*
- ◇ Medicine dropper
- ◇ Important Family Documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container

Information courtesy of

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



One of the services performed by the Consular Section of the American Embassy in Abu Dhabi is to provide services to U.S. Citizens residing in Al Ain. On 7 March 2012, the Consular Section staff visited Al Ain to provide services such as passports re-

## Al Ain Consular Outreach

newal, registration of birth, Notary and Adding passport pages. Also during the visit, the American Citizen Services Unit of the American Embassy in Abu Dhabi conducted a Town Hall Meeting for American citizens resident in Al Ain. The meeting was held at Zayed Library in Al Ain. During the meeting American Citizen Services Chief and ACS Assis-

tant, provided information regarding U.S. upcoming elections and how American can vote absentee. Future visits to Al Ain will be announced through a message to Americans enrolled in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. For more information please visit: <https://step.state.gov/step>

## Tips on filing taxes

- ⇒ If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.
- ⇒ If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your re-

turn, you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15.

- ⇒ This filing year, under FATCA, U.S. taxpayers with specified foreign financial assets that exceed certain thresholds must report those assets to the IRS. This reporting will be made on Form 8938, which taxpayers attach to their federal income tax return.

⇒ Taxpayers with an AGI

(Adjusted Gross Income) of \$57,000 or less can electronically file their tax return for free using freefile. Taxpayers with an AGI greater than \$57,000 can either use the Free File Fillable Forms or efile by purchasing commercial software. A limited number of companies provide software that can accommodate foreign addresses. To determine which will work best for you, get help choosing a software provider.

For more information, please visit the Internal Revenue Services Web site at: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

# Passport renewals: Don't wait until the last minute



## Tip:

Because of recent events in the region, we advise US citizens residing in the UAE to periodically check the Country Specific Information for neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. This is particularly true if you are traveling through the land borders. To find country specific information please visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) and under travel information select the country of interest.

Renewing your passport in the UAE requires a trip to the Embassy or Consulate General. Please don't wait until the last minute to renew your passport. It is not possible to renew by mail when you reside abroad.

When your passport is less than six months validity, then you should be thinking about a renewal. The Embassy is very busy during the summer travel season. Apply early to avoid disappointment. The United States does not extend the validity of existing passports.

Did you know that passports with less than six months' validity can be rejected at foreign ports of entry for admission or at foreign embassies for the issuance of visas? You can avoid these hassles by ensuring your passport always has at least six months validity left.

All of the information needed to

renew your passport can be found on our website:

<http://abudhabi.usembassy.gov/passports.html>. An appointment is necessary for all non-emergency passport processing. Please visit our website to get the forms and begin the process. There you will find information on how to book an appointment from our online calendar. Note that appointments maybe in short supply in the summer months when everyone travels to avoid the heat.

All non-emergency U.S. passports are now printed in the United States. In general, you should expect to receive your new passport about 2 ½ weeks after your visit to the Embassy or Consulate General. Adult passports are valid for ten years. For children under age sixteen they are valid for five years.

You may keep your current passport and have it cancelled when you collect your new passport from the Embassy. We will not cancel your UAE residence visa. If you live in Al Ain, please ask about our courier service when you apply at the Embassy.

Our 2 ½ week estimate is just an estimate. It is not a guarantee. Your passport issuance could be

delayed. We see many applications with missing or incorrect information, especially social security numbers. In some cases the Department of State is unable to issue new passports. Recent changes in the law forbid the issuance of a passport to parents who owe more than \$2,500 in child support. Americans with outstanding legal or criminal issues can also be subject to delay or denial.

What about emergency passports? Emergency passports can usually be issued on the same day, contact the Embassy or Consulate General for an emergency appointment. But emergency passports are only for serious emergencies. Returning to the United States for urgent medical care is an emergency. A vacation to see the Taj Mahal is not. Emergency passports also have a very short validity period, sometimes just a few weeks. You will still need to apply for a full validity book either in the US or when you come back to the UAE.

Don't wait until the last minute. Avoid disappointment by applying early and making an appointment on our web site ahead of the busy summer travel season.

## Ask the consul:

**How can I take my fiancé/spouse, who is not an American Citizen, with me to the United States? Does she/he need a visa?**

Foreign national fiancés or spouses who wish to accompany their American citizen spouse for a short-term visit to the United States will need to apply for a non-immigrant (tourist) visa. Most short term travelers use a B1/B2 tourist visa for entry into the United States. The validity of the visa depends on the passport country of your fiancé/spouse. The first step is to complete the online visa application (DS-160)

which can be found on our website, he/she will also need to pay the fees at the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, and then schedule an appointment online for the interview. For links to the forms, more detailed instructions and the appointment calendar, please visit: <http://abudhabi.usembassy.gov/niv/main.html>. Note: for visit purposes, fiancés/spouses of American citizens use the same form and visa type as any other short term visitor

to the United States. Do not select K1 (fiancé visa), as this is a special class of visa for fiancés with an approved petition from the Department of Homeland Security who are planning to get married in the United States and then adjust status to permanent resident and remain with their American fiancé in the United States.

## MORE INFORMATION?

Visit our website :

[abudhabi.usembassy.gov](http://abudhabi.usembassy.gov)

Remember to schedule an appointment for American Citizen Services!